

August 8, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Applications by AT&T and T-Mobile for consent to merge (WT Docket No. 11-65)

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As a New Mexico state representative and member of the Navajo Nation, I am writing in support of the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. The vast majority of my district covers rural areas including nine Navajo Nation chapters and the Ute Mountain tribal land. Every day, I witness the need for broadband Internet in rural communities. I believe this merger would greatly enhance my constituents' ability to connect with opportunities beyond their towns.

High-speed wireless broadband should be available to all not be confined to New Mexico's cities. Unfortunately, high-speed wireless is currently not always readily available to rural residents. According to a study your commission released in June, the percentage of New Mexico's rural residents without access to the fastest broadband services reached 77 percent compared to 16.5 percent for urban residents. This gap must be closed.

Approval of this merger would bring AT&T's 4th Generation wireless service to virtually every New Mexican. The combined company promises to expand AT&T's current coverage plan to include an additional 55 million Americans, reaching over 97 percent of the nation's population. Greater access to this state-of-the-art mobile network would help ensure that the Navajo Nation and other rural communities could become a part of the digital age while still enjoying the benefits of rural life.

Please consider this letter of support, and my recommendation of approval for this merger.

Sincerely,

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